

room to

IMPROVE

information for those serious about improving manufacturing

October 2009

produced by The Improve Group, Australasia's leading productivity improvement provider

Government funding...

for Lean Manufacturing training programs

Government funding is available for eligible participants who enrol in Certificate III or Certificate IV in Competitive Manufacturing programs.

Typically, the programs are run over 12 to 24 months and result in a nationally recognised qualification for successful participants

A **\$5,100 training incentive** per participant for a Certificate III or IV in Competitive Manufacturing for existing workers (some conditions apply)

To obtain further information on government subsidies [click here](#) or call **07 3488 2143**.

Funding is still available under the **Productivity Places Program** for team leaders/managers with previous qualifications. Places are strictly limited for funding under this program and some conditions do apply.

Under this program, Queensland and Federal Government now subsidises 85% of the program costs for a **Diploma in Competitive Manufacturing**. Participants must have previously completed a **Certificate IV in Competitive Manufacturing**. Please contact us for more information or to submit your name for future funding rounds. The total employer contribution is \$675.

85% funding is available for **Certificate IV in Competitive Manufacturing** under the Productivity

Places Program for team leaders/managers with previous qualifications. The total employer contribution is \$675.

To obtain further information on government subsidies and about the Productivity Places Program, please [click here](#) or call **07 3488 2143**.

A further **25% payroll tax rebate** is now available to businesses employing apprentices and trainees.

Wages for apprentices and trainees are already exempt from payroll tax. To encourage businesses to employ more apprentices and trainees, a further 25% payroll tax rebate on eligible wages will be payable this financial year.

With the lowest payroll tax rate in the country and the highest threshold in mainland Australia, this measure will help businesses to retain apprentices and trainees, ensuring Queensland has the skilled workers needed to meet increasing demand in the future.

The government is investing \$18.2 billion in infrastructure in 2009-10 and will create in excess of 250,000 apprenticeships and traineeships over the next years to ensure we have the skills to build a stronger Queensland.



NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
TRAINING



Competitive manufacturing

The use of a systematic approach to producing high quality goods for the least cost and with the least waste.

News and views

Congratulations to the following groups on completion of their Certificate IV in Competitive Manufacturing program:

- Bradnams Windows & Doors, Toowoomba, QLD
- Transpacific Superior Pak, Bundaberg, QLD
- Walsh's Glass, Canning Vale, WA
- Danley Construction Products, Morningside, QLD (program delivered on behalf of SkillsTech)

Good luck to the following groups who have recently commenced CM programs with us:

- Transpacific Superior Pak (Cert III and Diploma)
- Hydrapower, Narangba, QLD
- Hyne Timber, Maryborough, QLD
- Bundaberg Brewed Drinks, Bundaberg, QLD
- Smart Timber, Kewdale, WA
- BGC Fibre Cement, Canning Vale, WA

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Visit the birthplace of LEAN

8-14 November, 2009

This is the last chance for you to take advantage of this exclusive opportunity to visit Japan, the birthplace of Lean.

During the tour, you will have a unique chance to visit some of the world leaders in Lean Manufacturing. These visits, to companies such as Toyota, Nissan and Canon, will give you exclusive behind the scenes access to management and obtain full access to "Best In Class" management principles.

You will also have the opportunity to interact with the world's best trained workers on the shop floor, to see Lean in action.

Experienced tour guides, interpreters and professors will be on hand to make your learning experience truly revolutionary.

"Since returning from Japan we have implemented new problem solving techniques and our leadership and management style has changed. Our operators are included in the decision making process as such have taken ownership of their jobs. They are much happier meaning staff turnover is greatly reduced."

The Lean Study Tour to Japan was a fantastic experience for us and we learnt so much. We're even looking to send 2 more of our team next year".

Julie Williams, [AgSolutions](#), Gympie



JAPAN: the birthplace of Lean



Preparing for a Kaizen Event

Kaizen kai means to take apart and zen means to make good. The word kaizen is often used when referring to continuous improvement.

A **kaizen event** is where specific individuals gather to quickly implement lean tools so as to eliminate waste and non-value added work.

Such events include **quick and easy kaizen**. During this event, each employee is encouraged to come up with 1 idea every day to improve his/her job or environment or to benefit the company as a whole.

A **30/30 kaizen** or **kaizen circle**, a 1 hour event where 30 minutes is allowed to find 30 improvement opportunities. Another 30 minutes is allowed to implement one change.

Longer kaizen events can take place over 1/2 to 5 days. These event generally require 2-3 weeks of planning and 3-4 weeks of follow up.

The goal of holding a kaizen event is to change so much in a short time that it is impossible to go back to the old way of doing things.

The Improve Group specialises in conducting Kaizen events - if you want assistance accelerating your lean implementation [click here](#).

Places are limited. REGISTER NOW to secure your place.
Click here for more information and registration details [click here](#)

Across the Tasman...

Recently Improve (NZ) became associate members of the New Zealand Manufacturers and Exporters Association (NZMEA).

Improve and NZMEA believe this will be a mutually beneficial relationship and prospects look exciting for the coming year.

NZMEA was formed by the merger of the Canterbury Manufacturers' Association and the New Zealand Engineers' Federation in August 2007, both of which had been long established in New Zealand. The Association focuses on the manufacturing and export sectors

with several different groups within it such as a Food Group, Engineering Group, Apparel and Textile Group and others looking after specific sectors.

The association supports manufacturers and exporters by talking to and lobbying governmental departments, networking and also provides valuable training and advice to many organisations on nearly every topic around manufacturing from H&S, HR, Employment Law, Exporting Advice and Business Improvement.

As Improve (NZ) looks to expand its contacts across NZ we see an

excellent synergy with NZMEA where we can provide their members with advice on productivity improvement and maintain long term relationships with many of them.

In return NZMEA is able to draw on our experience in Lean Manufacturing, Process Design and Change Management to help their members make informed business decisions that will ultimately make them far more competitive.

We look forward to a long and rewarding partnership with NZMEA.

www.mea.org.nz